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CHAL - 0984

16 May 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT : Modified U-2 for Navy Aircraft Carrier Operation

1. Latest LAC document on this subject, 14 August 1957, is attached. The modifications called for probably should be reviewed with Navy personnel who have up to date information on carriers.

2. Two kinds of changes are given:

(a) "Must" changes:

- (1) stronger main and tail gear
- (2) arresting hook
- (3) fuel dump mechanism

(b) Extra safety and convenience changes:

- (1) retractable pegs
- (2) JATO
- (3) detachable wing tips
- (4) landing gear built for high sinking speed.

3. The minimum "must" changes add about 230 lbs. and probably would take 3 - 5 months to modify the first aircraft. The extra safety and convenience changes could add 500 lbs. depending on extent and involve some small loss of fuel volume.

4. Carrier qualifications may be troublesome and time consuming. It would mean extensive training of either present pilots in carrier operations or carrier qualified pilots in U-2 handling.

5. A quick glance at the map indicates operations from the North Sea, Mediterranean, Pacific, and Indian oceans could yield coverage of all but the upper central third of denied area. I am very rusty on Navy carrier operations in the Arctic but recall it was rather hazardous.

Navy has no objection to declassification and release.

SIGNED

[Signature Box]

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Navy review(s) completed.